Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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DRAFTED BY EB/TD:JJO'NEILL:SP APPROVED BY EB/TD:JJO'NEILL, JR. ARA/BR - MR. SHUGART

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R 291727Z JAN 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BR, TSPA

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE.

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) ISSUED BY EMBRATEL FOR THE SUPPLY OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE FOR BRAZIL'S DOMESTIC USE. DR. ALBERT D. WHELLON, HUGHES AIRCRAFT VICE PRESIDENT, DESCRIBES RFP AS PRELIMINARY VERSION BUT EXPECTS THAT IT IS CLOSE TO WHAT WILL BE FINAL TEXT. HUGHES AS A MAJOR U.S. MANUFACTURER OF SATELLITES, IS COMPETING FOR BRAZILIAN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CONTRACT, AND WHELLON DISCUSSED HUGHES INTEREST DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SOME MONTHS BACK. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, WHELLON DESCRIBED BRAZILIAN SITUATION AS HUGHES PRESENTLY SEES IT, STATING THAT WHILE BRAZILIAN COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS ARE INTERESTED IN DOMESTIC SATELLITE SYSTEM, THE FINAL DECISION PROBABLY WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE MADE AT HIGH GOB LEVEL; NOT SOLELY ON BASIS OF

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS, BUT BY WEIGHING PRIORITIES WITHIN LIMITED BUDGETARY RESOURCES. FOR EXAMPLE, HE REFERRED TO BRAZIL'S KEEN INTEREST IN OIL EXPLORATION AND IN OBTAINING MEASURE OF INDEPENDENCE IN ENERGY FIELD. ENERGY EXPLORATION REQUIREMENT MAY RECEIVE HIGHER

PRIORITY THAN COMMUNICATIONS, AND CONSEQUENTLY SATELLITE PROJECT MAY BE DEFERRED. WHELLON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ANY INDICATIONS DEPARTMENT MAY RECEIVE REGARDING RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SATELLITE PROJECT WITHIN GOB'S OVERALL BUDGET SCHEME. IF PROJECT IS TO BE DOWNGRADED, HUGHES WOULD THEN NEED TO CONSIDER EXTENT OF RESOURCES IT SHOULD DEVOTE TO CONTINUING SALES EFFORT. WHELLON WAS NOT SUGGESTING THAT GOB DECISION ON BUDGETARY PRIORITIES IS NECESSARILY IMMINENT, BUT HE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS REGARD THAT COME TO POSTS' ATTENTION.

2. WHELLON IS HIGHLY-RESPECTED FIGURE IN SATELLITE FIELD AND WELL-KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. IF INFORMATION SHOULD COME TO POSTS' ATTENTION THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO HUGHES, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES

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TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, BR
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